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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/725,108

12/01/2003

Bryan K. Kennedy

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2785

23552 7590 12/19/2006
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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

12/19/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/725,108

Applicant(s)

KENNEDY ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan P. Knowlin

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :11/30/05;
02/08/06; 03/06/06; 09/06/06.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swieconeck (US 6,980,725), in view of Bremer et al (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2004/0042510 A1).
2. In regards to claims 1 and 15, Swieconeck discloses a system and method for delivering digital subscriber line (DSL) service to a subscriber (See col. 1-2 lines 62-3), comprising: an adapter (See Fig. 3 and adapter 120) configured to interface with a protector field (See Fig. 1 and protect block 111) (See col. 2 lines 29-40 and col. 4-5 lines 48-7); a protector module (See Fig. 2 and protector module 110) associated with said adapter (See col. 2 lines 29-40 and col. 4-5 lines 48-7); and a cross connect block in communication with said adapter (See col. 2 lines 57-61); wherein a pair gain signal transmitted through said protector field is rerouted by said adapter through said protector module to said cross connector block and then back to said protector field (See col. 2-3 lines 57-13 and col. 5 lines 8-26). Swieconeck, however, does not specifically disclose a cross connect block configured to selectively route a signal received by said cross connect block to a splitter for combining and separating signals,

with one of said signals being a DSL signal from a DSL system. Bremer, however, does disclose a cross connect block (See Fig. 16, cross-connect box 16550 and Fig. 17, cross-connect box 17550) configured to selectively route a signal received by said cross connect block to a splitter (See Fig. 16 and POTS/cross-connect splitter 16580) for combining and separating signals, with one of said signals being a DSL signal from a DSL system (See Abstract, pg. 7, paragraph [0065], pg. 8-9, paragraph [0074], and pg. 16, paragraph [0112] – [0113]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this limitation within the system, as a way of providing faster digital service over a loaded subscriber loop together with a capability to support an analog POTS interface, and providing benefits that can allow more customers to obtain a reasonable digital service access line at an affordable price point.

3. In regards to claim 2, Swieconeck discloses the system, wherein the protector module is a separate component (See Fig. 2A – 2C).

4. In regards to claim 3, Swieconeck discloses the system, wherein said protector module is a subcomponent of said adapter (See col. 2 lines 29-40 and col. 4 lines 48-60).

5. In regards to claims 4 and 16, Swieconeck discloses the system and method, wherein said adapter is configured to directly interface with said protector field while said protector module indirectly interfaces with said protector field through said adapter (See col. 4 lines 48-60).

6. In regards to claims 5, 6, and 17, Swieconek discloses the system, wherein at least one conductor projecting out from a surface of said protector module is received by at least one corresponding receptacle of said adapter, and wherein at least one conductor projecting out from a surface of said adapter is received by at least one corresponding receptacle of said protector field (See col. 8 lines 20-38).

7. In regards to claims 7, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20, Swieconek discloses all of claims 7, 11, 12, and 13 limitations, except the system, further comprising: a first two-way route for communicating said pair gain signal from a pair gain system, through said protector field and cross connect block, to said subscriber; a second two-way route, partially overlapping said first route, for communicating said pair gain signal from said pair gain system, through said splitter, to said subscriber; and a disruptor for selectively activating one of said first and second routes. Bremer, however does disclose a first two-way route for communicating said pair gain signal from a pair gain system, through said protector field and cross connect block, to said subscriber; a second two-way route, partially overlapping said first route, for communicating said pair gain signal from said pair gain system, through said splitter, to said subscriber (See Abstract, Fig. 17, pg. 11, paragraph [0086], and pg. 16, paragraph [0113]); and a disruptor for selectively activating one of said first and second routes (See pg. 2, paragraph [0022])

8. In regards to claims 8 and 9, Swieconek discloses all of claims 8 and 9 limitations, except the system, wherein no noticeable disruption of telephone service occurs during said selective activation of said first and second routes. Bremer,

however, does disclose no noticeable disruption of telephone service occurs during said selective activation of said first and second routes (See pg. 11, paragraph [0086]).

9. In regards to claim 10, Swieconeck and Bremer disclose all of claim 10 limitations. Bremer, however, further discloses a first terminal (See Fig. 17 and terminal 17553) on said cross connect block (See Fig. 17 and cross-connect box 17550) and a second terminal (See Fig. 17 and terminal 17555) on said cross connect block (See Fig. 17 and cross-connect box 17550) (See pg. 16, paragraph [0113]).

10. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swieconeck (US 6,980,725), in view of Bremer et al (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2004/0042510 A1), and further in view of Kozel et al (US 5,551,889).

11. In regards to claim 14, Swieconeck and Bremer disclose all of claim 14 limitations, except wherein said cross connect block is an insulation displacement connection (IDC) block. Kozel, however, does disclose an insulation displacement connection (IDC) block (See Fig. 1 and IDC block 10) (See col. 1 lines 49-67, col. 2 lines 29-46, and col. 2-3 lines 56-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature within the system, as a way of allowing for mass termination of wires without use of special tools, complicated methods, or time-consuming methods such as soldering.

Conclusion

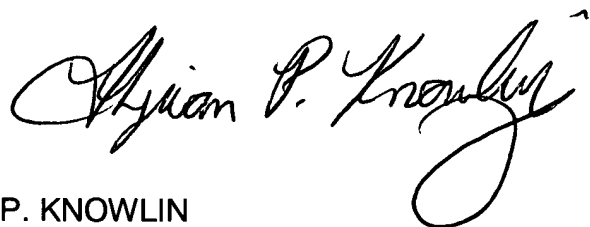
12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bloemen (US 6,914,976) teaches a telecommunications customer service terminal that provides telecommunications service between a telecommunications line and a plurality of telephones and/or data processing devices. Blanset et al (US 6,977,922) teach systems and methods for automatically configuring cross-connections in a digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM).

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 2614

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thjuan P. Knowlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "T" and a long, sweeping "K".

THJUAN P. KNOWLIN
PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600